

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
storing a form dataset of identical form data only once within a predetermined data group, and  
storing all allocated variable data of all datasets of the data group.

4. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein said printer data format is printer-specific data.

5. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of:  
seeking form indicators for recognizing form data in the data stream.

6. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:  
investigating data of the data stream first in groups for form data, and  
allocating between the variable data and the form data only given repeated occurrence of form data.

7. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:  
using overlay information form indicators.

8. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

storing a form dataset after a first occurrence within the predetermined data group of the print data stream; and

only marking data as a form dataset, converting the data into a form bitmap and allocating the data to an appertaining variable dataset after a repeated occurrence.

9. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

with a work sequence, implementing at least one of printing and archiving.

10. (Currently Amended) A method ~~[according to claim 1,]~~ for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format; and

differently processing the two data types,

wherein the form data are not stored in the archive storage.

11. (Currently Amended) A method ~~[according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:]~~ for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format;  
differently processing the two data types; and  
reconstructing an original pixel image from the form data and the variable data.

12. (Currently Amended) A method [~~according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:~~] for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format;  
differently processing the two data types; and  
using references to superimpose the form data and the variable data.

13. (Currently Amended) A method [~~according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:~~] for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format;  
differently processing the two data types; and  
generating an index dataset.

14. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the index dataset contains a reference to the variable data.

15. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a printer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic and text information, wherein the print data stream is converted from the printer-specific data format into a data format based on pixels, comprising:

an archiving interface that differently processes form data in the data format based on pixels and variable data while said data is in the printer-specific data format.

16. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising: a printer controller that transfers variable data, form data and index data to a further-processing computer via an interface.

17. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said print controller includes a further-processing computer integrated in the printer controller.

18. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said archiving interface is operable to make a distinction between form data and variable data.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A method ~~[as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:]~~ for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data  
is in a printer data format;  
differently processing the two data types; and  
converting a data stream is converted from the printer-specific data format into a data format  
based on pixels.

21.(Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said overlay  
information is selected from the information consisting of control information, macro  
information, graphic information, predetermined text modules and predetermined text  
attributes.